

c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2,

d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a portion of the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said portion is the mature protein, and

e) a sequence which hybridizes to a), b), c) or d) under stringent hybridization conditions, wherein said sequence encodes the mature protein of the TGF- β family.

¹²
14. The protein according to claim 13, wherein said protein has the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

¹³
15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one protein according to claim 13, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, auxiliary substance, diluent or filler.

¹⁴
16. A method for treating or preventing damage to bone, cartilage, connective tissues, skin, mucous membranes, epithelium or teeth, comprising administering the protein according to claim 13 to a patient in need of such treatment.

¹⁵
17. A method for improving wound healing and tissue regeneration, comprising administering the protein according to claim 13 to a patient in need of such treatment.

¹⁶
18. A dental implant which contains the protein according to claim 13.

¹⁷
19. An antibody or antibody fragment which binds to the protein according to claim 13.

¹⁸
20. An antibody or antibody fragment which binds to a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or biologically functional parts thereof.

¹⁹
21. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15, wherein the protein is contained on or in a natural or synthetically prepared matrix material.

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22. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein said matrix material is a biocompatible porous material that can be biologically degraded.

²¹
23. A protein of the TGF- β family encoded by a DNA molecule which is a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes the mature protein and further comprises nucleotide sequences coding for signal and/or propeptide parts.

²²
24. A protein of the TGF- β family encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises nucleotides 640-2142 of SEQ ID NO:1.--

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to put the application into better condition for examination.